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DIGITAL EDITION
SPAWN
RORY McCONVILLE
CARLO BARBERI

# SPAWN

SPAWN'S UNIVERSE 92 22


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TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

As Haunt searches for a cure to the deadly poison coursing through his veins, an uneasy alliance with Spawn may be his only hope for survival!


image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS
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I WANT TO MAKE A DEAL.
THIS MISSION YOU PICKED ME FOR... I'LL DO IT, BUT I WANT SOMETHING IN RETURN.
WHO SAID THERE WAS A MISSION?
OVERHEARD A COUPLE OF YOUR LAP DOGS. SO, YOU WANT ME TO PLAY BALL, THEN I WANT OUT OF MY CELL.
YOU'RE NOT IN A POSITION TO BE MAKING DEMANDS.
WELL, I MUST HAVE SOME VALUE, OTHERWISE YOU'D HAVE KILLED ME BY NOW.
IS THAT WHAT YOU THINK? SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU BUT IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT.
WE CHOSE YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THE MOST *EXPENDABLE.*

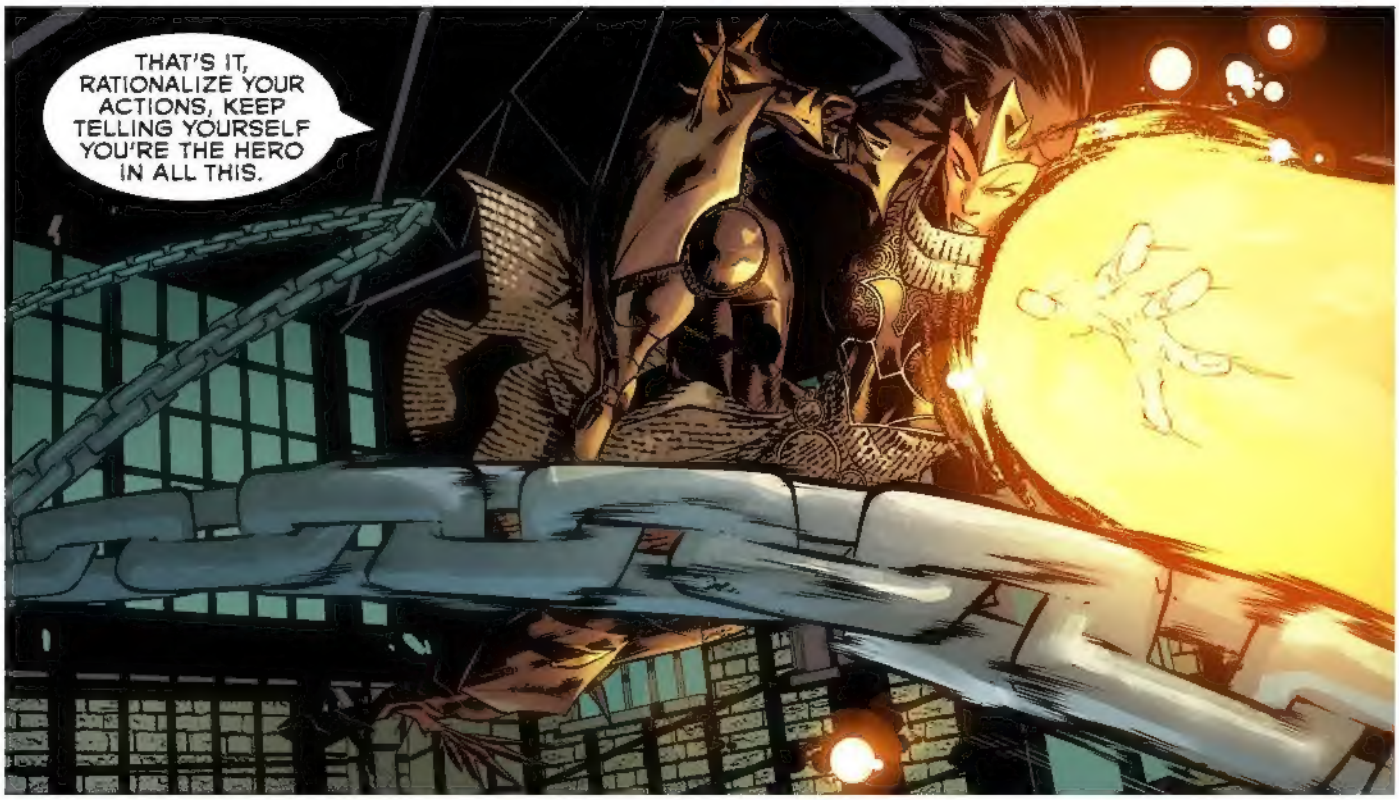
A PUTRID SMELL BURNS AS SHE SHIFTS FORMS.
EVEN THE GUNSLINGER LOOKS SUPER-HUMAN COMPARED TO YOU, DARK DETECTIVE.
I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY HELL WASTES SO MUCH OF ITS ENERGY ON YOU HELLSPAWNS.
ENERGY THAT ALMOST ALWAYS ENDS UP IN DISAPPOINT-MENT.
EXCUSE US, MA'AM.

DR. MILNER WANTED YOU TO KNOW HE FINISHED HIS EXAMINATION. LOOKS LIKE THE PRISONER'S GOT THE NECESSARY PSYCHIC ABILITIES.
GOOD. BRING IT OVER HERE.
IS THIS THE BEST YOU GOT?
AND, I ALREADY SAID I'D COOPERATE.
THIS IS JUST TO ENSURE YOU DO EXACTLY THAT.
YES, I KNOW...
tap
tap

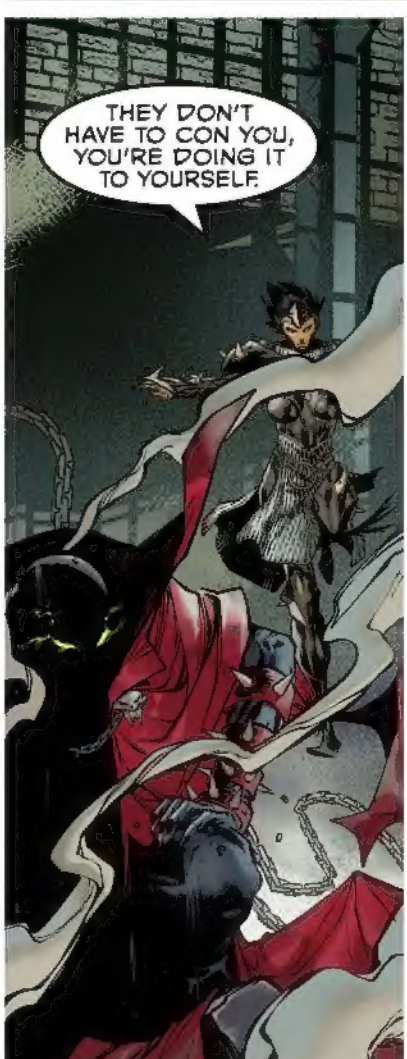
DANIEL KILGORE HAS NEVER HAD THE BEST TRACK RECORD WITH WOMEN.
THE FIRST WOMAN HE EVER LOVED LEFT HIM FOR HIS BROTHER... AND MARRIED HIM.
THE SECOND TRAGICALLY DIED IN A CHAOTIC BATTLE WITH A PSYCHOTIC CULT.

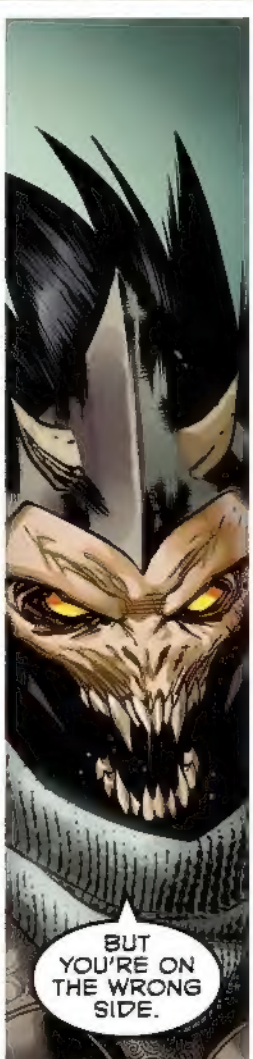
HE'D STARTED TO DOUBT HE'D EVER FIND LOVE AGAIN.
BUT THEN HE MET LYDIA...
AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, HE BEGAN TO FEEL HOPE...
THAT IS, UNTIL SHE TRIED TO MURDER HIM.
I'M SURPRISED YOU'RE STILL STANDING, DANIEL...
I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE THOROUGH THIS TIME!

ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE WAREHOUSE, SPAWN BATTLES A FRESH WAVE OF REINFORCEMENTS.
YOU'RE A FOOL, SPAWN.
YOU'VE FALLEN SO LOW THAT YOU'D DIE FOR SCUM LIKE IRIS?
I KNOW WHAT SHE IS AND WHAT SHE'S CAPABLE OF. EVEN IF SHE DOES WORK WITH COG.
AND FOR NOW, I NEED HER ALIVE.

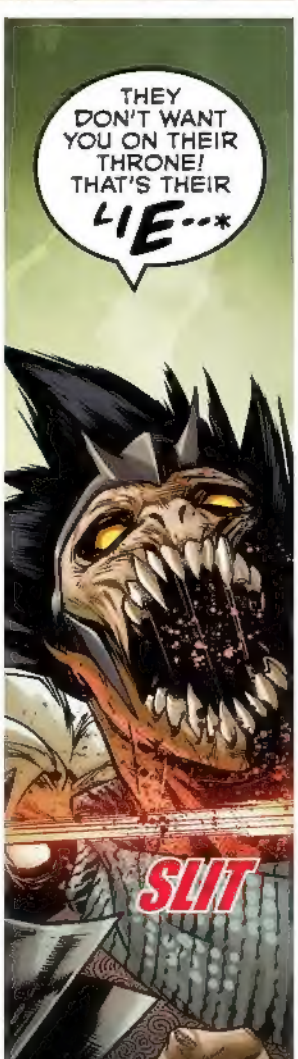

THAT'S IT, RATIONALIZE YOUR ACTIONS, KEEP TELLING YOURSELF YOU'RE THE HERO IN ALL THIS.

ZIK
ZIK
ZIK


THEY DON'T HAVE TO CON YOU, YOU'RE DOING IT TO YOURSELF.


BUT YOU'RE ON THE WRONG SIDE.

THEY'RE USING YOU SO THEY CAN STEAL MORE POWER.


THEY DON'T WANT YOU ON THEIR THRONE! THAT'S THEIR LIE--*
SLIT

DANNY, BE CAREFUL!
YOU'RE ANGRY, I KNOW, BUT WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET RID OF THE POISON IN US!
MY, MY... WHERE WAS THAT FIRE WHEN WE WERE TOGETHER?
SHUT UP! YOU'RE NOT LYDIA!
THE ANTIDOTE, WHERE IS IT? TELL ME OR I SWEAR I'LL--
YES, THERE'S AN ANTIDOTE, BUT YOU CAN ONLY GET IT IN HEAVEN.
SO, YOU WANT TO LIVE? THEN GET SPAWN TO OPEN THE 'DEAD ZONES'-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN GET THERE.

WHAT THE HELL ARE DEAD ZONES?
WATCH OUT!
THE ONLY REASON I LET YOU LIVE LAST TIME WAS BECAUSE IT GAVE THE POISON LONGER TO SPREAD THROUGH YOUR BODY.
IF WE KILLED YOU TOO EARLY, THE HAUNT SUIT MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO SURVIVE AND ATTACH ITSELF TO A NEW HOST.
STEP AWAY FROM HIM.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE POISON'S HAD ENOUGH TIME NOW...

YOUR CALL. BUT I SUSPECT YOU'LL SOON WISH I'D FINISHED HIM.
AS FOR YOU, IRIS, WE WON'T FORGET THIS BETRAYAL.
LEAVE HER.
WHERE'RE YOU GOING? I WANT TO SPEAK TO COGLIOSTRO.
PATIENCE, SPAWN. MY MASTER IS A BUSY MAN.
STILL, HE SAID HE'D MEET YOU IN A WEEK'S TIME. I'LL MAKE ARRANGE-MENTS...
TELL HIM I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

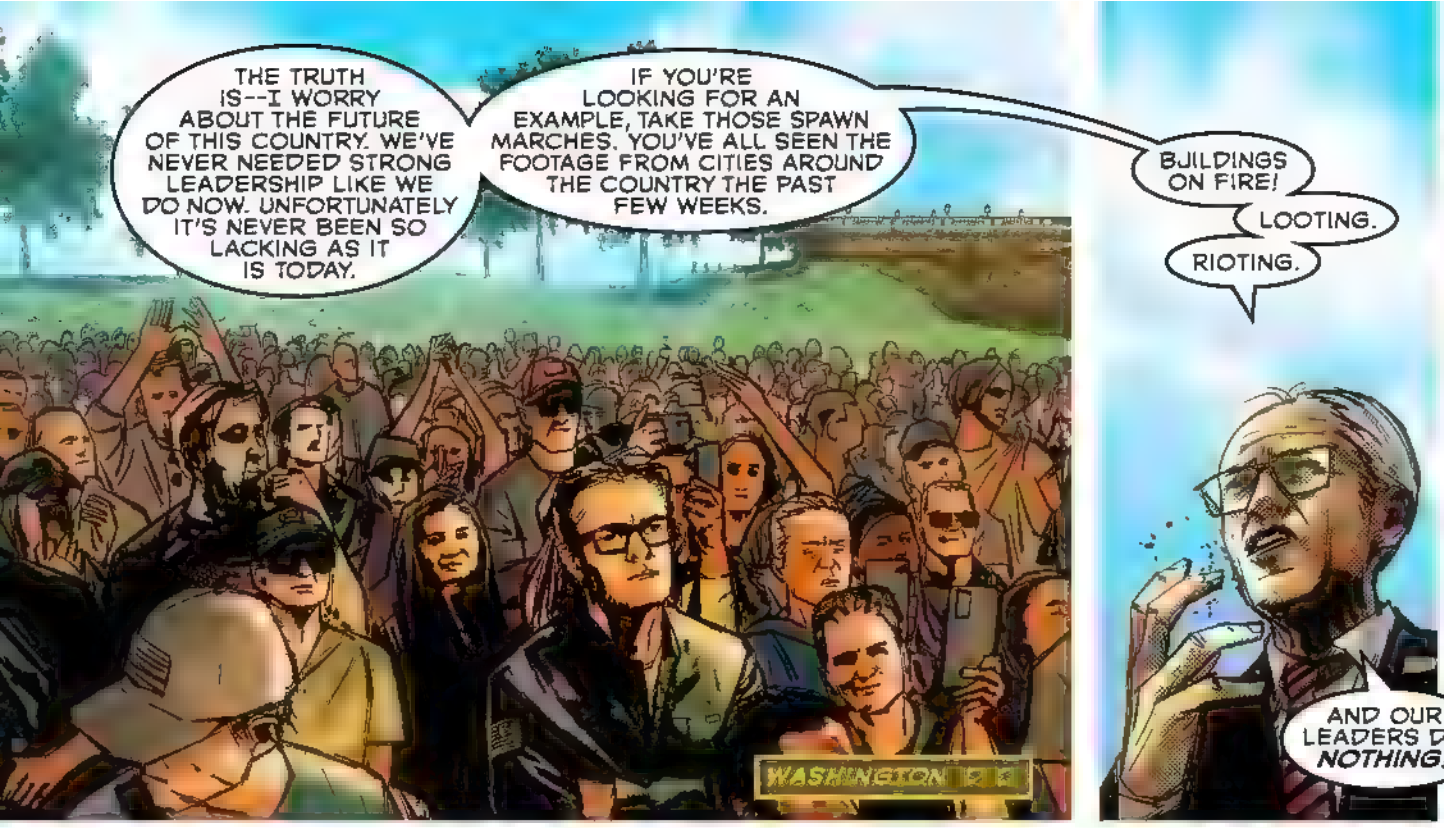
HEY! WHAT'RE DEAD ZONES?
WHY YOU ASKING?
THE CREATURE THAT WAS LYDIA SAID THE ANTIDOTE I NEED, IT'S IN HEAVEN AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET THERE WAS USING SOMETHING CALLED THE DEAD ZONES.
SO...?
THEY'RE ENTRANCE POINTS CONNECTING HEAVEN AND HELL TO EARTH.
CAN YOU OPEN THEM?
IN THEORY.
SO, YOU CAN TAKE ME TO HEAVEN? SHIT, THAT'S A RELIEF! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MUCH I'VE BEEN WORRYING ABOUT THIS POISON INSIDE ME STARTING TO ROT MY INSIDES AND--
DAN E... HE'S NOT GOING TO OPEN THEM FOR YOU

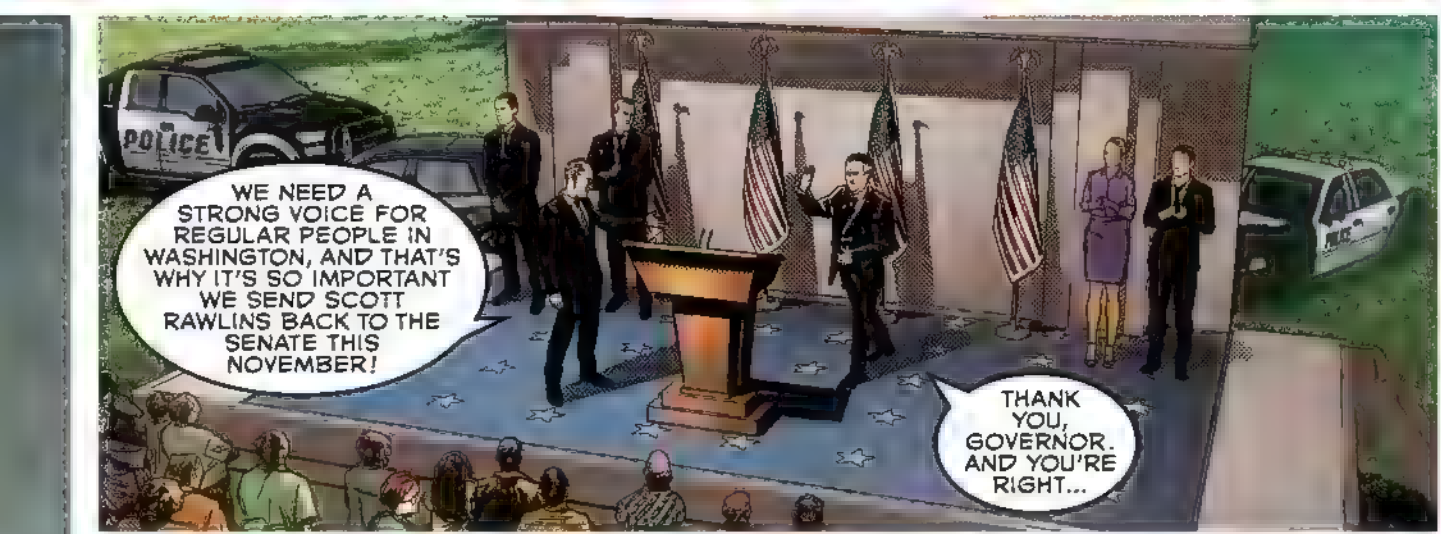
I'M NOT. THEY'RE STAYING CLOSED.
WHY'S THAT?
THE DEAD ZONES NEED TO STAY CLOSED. IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HEAVEN AND HELL FROM INTERFERING WITH HUMANITY.
BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T, HUMANITY GETS WIPED OUT.
IF THEY STAY CLOSED, THEN I DIE.
A COUPLE THINGS; FIRST, YOU'RE NOT MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE REST OF THE WORLD, SO I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF YOU DIE...
SECOND, I BET THEY'RE LYING. BECAUSE THEY DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT YOU EITHER, SO WHY WOULD THEY GIVE YOU ANY HELP IN CURING YOURSELF?
IT'S IN THEIR INTEREST FOR THE DEAD ZONES TO BE OPENED.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF FINDING A CURE ON EARTH, IT'S WHERE THE POISON WAS PROBABLY CREATED. SO, START THERE.
BY SCOURING THE EARTH? YOU SERIOUS? I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME.
LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE NOT MY PROBLEM. BUT I'LL REACH OUT TO A FEW PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP. IF THEY CAN'T, THE DEAD ZONES STILL STAY LOCKED.

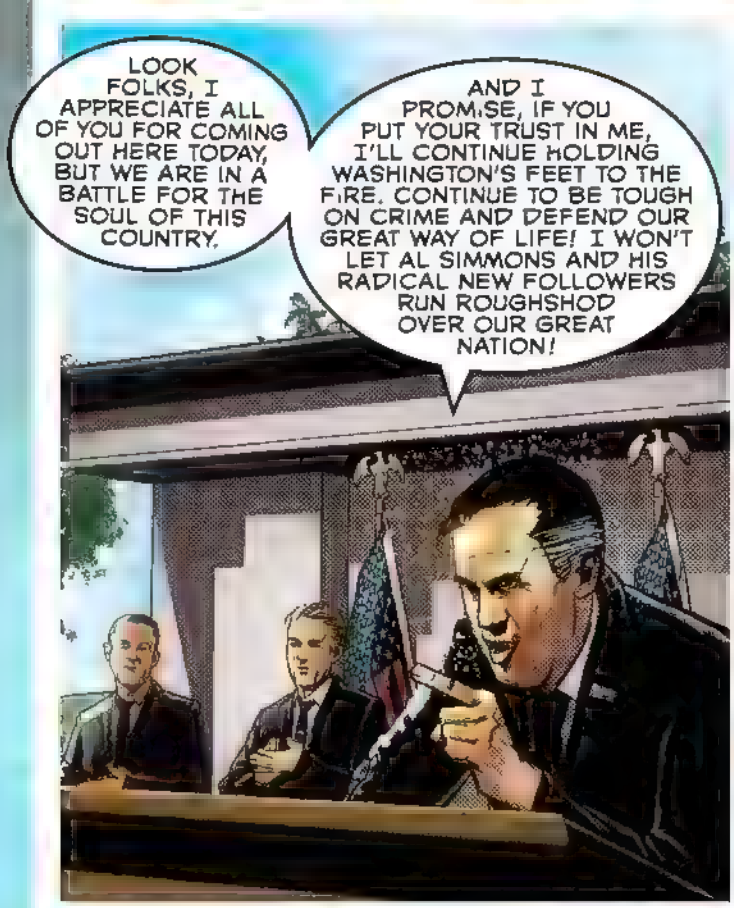
SO, THAT'S HOW THIS WORKS? EVERY MAN FOR THEM-SELVES?
NO WONDER THEY'RE WINNING. WHILE THEY'RE JOINING FORCES, BUILDING THEIR ARMIES, THE GUYS ON THE GOOD SIDE ARE MORE WORRIED ABOUT COVERING THEIR OWN ASSES THAN FINDING A WAY TO BEAT THEM?
WELL, SCREW YOU! I THOUGHT, AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU'D BE MORE PISSED AT THEM AND WHEN SOMEONE OFFERED YOU HELP, YOU'D TAKE IT!
I TAKE HELP I CAN TRUST.
YOU DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY. NOT IN WAR!
YOU TAKE HELP IN WHATEVER FORM IT COMES AND SORT OUT WHO YOU DO OR DON'T LIKE AFTER YOU WIN.
YOU'RE MILITARY, YOU KNOW THIS ALREADY!
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO BE MY FRIEND, I'VE GOT PLENTY OF THOSE, I'M TELLING YOU I WANT TO HELP. BUT I CAN'T-- IF I'M DEAD!
WE ALL DIE.
YEAH, BUT WE DON'T ALL GET TO COME BACK LIKE YOU THOUGH, DO WE?

YOU WANT TO HELP?
FINE!
TELL ME THEN, HOW DO I STOP DOZENS OF FACTIONS, FILLED WITH DEMONS AND ANGELS, WHO DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHOSE SIDE THEY'RE ON AS LONG AS THEY RETAIN POWER AND INFLUENCE OVER EVERY HUMAN BEING ON EARTH?
THE REASON THEY WANT THE DEAD ZONES OPEN IS SO THEY CAN GROW THOSE POWERS!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM DO THAT.
THEN TAKE MY HELP!
WE'RE DONE.
DON'T YOU TURN YOUR BACK ON ME! I WON'T SACRIFICE MY LIFE FOR NOTHING!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO JOIN THIS WAR!
THAT WAS YOUR CHOICE!
AND YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT'S HAD TO SACRIFICE THINGS. SO, YOU WANT TO FIGHT, THEN DO IT--BUT PART OF THAT MEANS ONE DAY OUR ENEMIES MIGHT JUST GET THEIR KILL-SHOT.
SO, DYING, THAT'S PART OF THE EQUATION!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE STOMACH FOR THAT, YOU'RE USELESS TO ME.
THEN GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO BE USEFUL.
HE HESITATES, BUT SPAWN KNOWS HE NEEDS AS MANY ALLIES AS HE CAN FIND FOR NOW, AT LEAST
THUK
YOU WANTED TO SURVIVE? THEN FOCUS ON THAT.
HE RETREATS INTO THE COLD SHADOWS THAT SWALLOW HIM, ALLOWING HIM TO DISAPPEAR
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?


THE TRUTH IS--I WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY. WE'VE NEVER NEEDED STRONG LEADERSHIP LIKE WE DO NOW. UNFORTUNATELY IT'S NEVER BEEN SO LACKING AS IT IS TODAY.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN EXAMPLE, TAKE THOSE SPAWN MARCHES. YOU'VE ALL SEEN THE FOOTAGE FROM CITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY THE PAST FEW WEEKS.
BUILDINGS ON FIRE!
LOOTING.
RIOTING.
WASHINGTON D.C.
AND OUR LEADERS DO NOTHING!


POLICE
WE NEED A STRONG VOICE FOR REGULAR PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT'S WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT WE SEND SCOTT RAWLINS BACK TO THE SENATE THIS NOVEMBER!
THANK YOU, GOVERNOR. AND YOU'RE RIGHT...


LOOK FOLKS, I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU FOR COMING OUT HERE TODAY, BUT WE ARE IN A BATTLE FOR THE SOUL OF THIS COUNTRY.
AND I PROMISE, IF YOU PUT YOUR TRUST IN ME, I'LL CONTINUE HOLDING WASHINGTON'S FEET TO THE FIRE. CONTINUE TO BE TOUGH ON CRIME AND DEFEND OUR GREAT WAY OF LIFE! I WON'T LET AL SIMMONS AND HIS RADICAL NEW FOLLOWERS RUN ROUGHSHOD OVER OUR GREAT NATION!

I WON'T--

YOU LOOK SCARED, RAWLINS.
YOU SHOULD BE.
CRACK

THE CROWD TRIES TO FLEE, BUT THEIR SHEER NUMBERS SLOW THEM DOWN, MAKING THEIR EXECUTIONS THAT MUCH EASIER FOR THE MERCENARIES AND THEIR HIGH-POWERED RIFLES

"--AS UTTER CARNAGE HAS ENGULFED THE AREA WHERE SENATOR RAWLINS WAS GIVING A SPEECH TO THOUSANDS OF HIS SUPPORTERS.
"THOUGH MOST HAVE MANAGED TO ESCAPE, THE EVENT HAS DESCENDED INTO A MASSACRE."
AM I CLEAR TO PROCEED?
TARGET'S LOCKED.
NOT YET. I WANT THEM TO GATHER MORE FOOTAGE...
"...WE STILL NEED OUR MONEY SHOT."

DEATH TO THOSE WHO OPPOSE AL SIMMONS!
PERFECT.
YOU CAN PROCEED, ABBOTT.
COPY THAT.

2:1:6:5

# SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

# THE BREAKDOWN

## ASKED & ANSWERED: RORY McCONVILLE

**Rory, you've stepped into the role of writer on Spawn and took the reins from Todd McFarlane himself, you have some pretty big shoes to fill! What's that been like?**

Equal parts thrilling and daunting! I think I first started talking with Todd in mid 2021 about working on some projects in the Spawn universe but never expected to end up writing the main Spawn title. It's been amazing getting to work with everyone on Team Spawn and this feels like a particularly exciting time to be coming onboard, especially as Spawn's world is growing into this much larger line of books. I've a bit of experience working in a shared universe from writing Judge Dredd, but this is my first time really being involved in a multi-title world that's evolving and changing week to week. It's a very interesting creative challenge as well as a lot of fun hearing what's coming up in Sean and Todd's books.

**In your first arc you've wasted no time in bringing back Jim Downing into the mix, as well as introducing some new "Spawns". So what's next?**

Our next issue starts with Spawn dealing with the immediate fallout from the attack at the end of this issue. This sets him on a hunt where he'll be working with a member of The Scorched to try and find out more about the conspiracy underway against him. Meanwhile, Jim is trying to gather more allies to his cause, with some surprising recruits. In coming issues, we're also going to be learning a lot more about The Forsaken and parts of his origin and we'll see how Haunt deals with the aftermath of his confrontation with Al in this issue. We've also got Sinn coming into the series in a very big way in a few issues time. First, we're going to be doing a one-shot story focused on him, which really serves to reintroduce him to the Spawn Universe and will include some revelations about his past, as well as his new power set and plans. And then we'll be heading into Sinn and Al's first encounter since Sinn's transformation, which is a moment I've been thinking about since I started working on the series. So plenty on the horizon in the next few months...

**As a writer is it more exciting to be working with classic characters like Cy-Gor and Jim or working on creating new ones like Spartan Spawn and The Forsaken?**

Is it cheating to say they're both equally exciting in their own ways? I think one of the most enjoyable things about working in a universe full of pre-existing characters is being able to really build on the rich relationships and histories that they have. By the same token, it's always fun to see a totally new character you've come up with being drawn by someone as talented as Carlo, and I think it's important to chip in and add something new, so that you're helping to expand the universe.

**The fans of Spawn are some of the best in Comics Fandom! You have the pulpit, what would you like to say to them?**

We've got a lot of cool stories planned over the next few months. These first few issues have been about laying the groundwork and getting characters into the right places, but now we're going to be kicking things into high gear. I hope you'll stick with us.

# NEED MORE SPAWN'S UNIVERSE?

## DON'T MISS THESE TITLES:

SPAWN®

KING SPAWN®

THE SCORCHED®

GUNSLINGER®

SPAWN

## ONGOING NOW!

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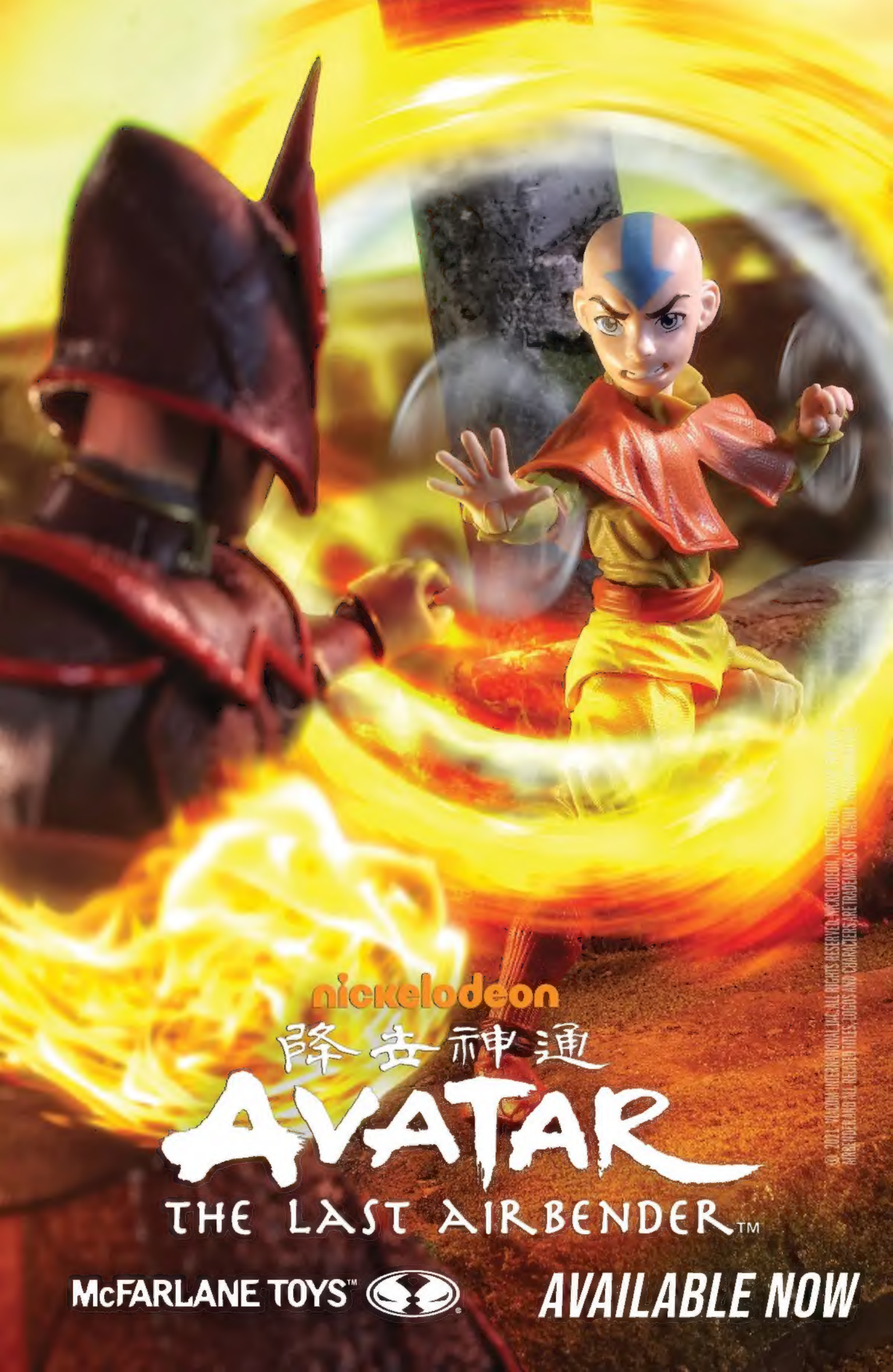
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